

**Cherrie on Costa Rican Birds.**—In two recent papers Mr. Cherrie has made known some of the more important results of his recent work on Costa Rican birds. The first\* contains descriptions of two new genera, eight new species, and one new subspecies, as follows: (1) *Lophotriccus squammicristatus minor*, (2) *L. zeledoni*, (3) *Pachyrhamphus ornatus*, (4) *Deconychura* (gen. nov.) *typica*, (5) *Prumnoplex* (gen. nov., type *Margornis brunnesceus* Lawr.), (6) *Vireo superciliaris* (Ridgw. MS.), (7) *Basileuterus salvini*, (8) *Grallaria lizanoi*, (9) *Myrmiceza intermedia*. There are notes also on *Basileuterus delatitii*, restricting the name to the Costa Rican form, and renaming the Guatemalan form *B. salvini*, as above. The Atlantic and Pacific forms of *Arremon aurantirostris* are found to present slight differences, and in view of their probably proving separable the name *Arremon aurantirostris saturatus* is suggested for the dark-colored bird of the Atlantic slope.

In the second paper,† which is really a continuation of the first, being based on the same collection, contains an annotated list of 55 species, and is a paper of much interest and importance. The annotations are often based on large series of specimens, and relate to individual, seasonal, or other variations, with often extended tables of measurements, and critical remarks on the affinities and nomenclature of the species treated. *Dendroornis lawrencei* Ridgw. is considered a synonym of *D. nana* Lawr., as first shown by Mr. Elliot (Auk, VII, p. 174) and now conceded by Mr. Ridgway. The *D. lawrencei costaricensis* Ridgw. hence now becomes *D. nana costaricensis*. *Picolaptes gracilis* is also referred to *P. compressus*, of which measurements are given of 33 specimens. —J. A. A.

**Shufeldt on the Osteology of Arctic and Sub-Arctic Water Birds.**‡ — Since noticing this series of papers (Auk, VI, p. 333) Parts V to IX, have appeared, treating of the Puffins (Pt. V), Loons and Grebes (Pt. VI), Gulls and Jaegers (Pts. VII and VIII), and *Chionis* (Pt. IX). These Parts are illustrated by 43 cuts in the text and 7 beautifully executed plates, illustrating in detail the osteology of the various species treated. In respect to the Alcidæ, Dr. Shufeldt's conclusions bear out the arrangement of the minor subdivisions adopted in the A. O. U. Check-list, though written we are informed, before the publication of that work, except that in his opinion the positions of the genera *Uria* and *Plautus* should be transposed, *Uria* being more nearly related to the Gulls than either *Alca* or *Plautus*.

The Loons and Grebes are believed to be more closely related to each

\*Description of New Genera, Species, and Subspecies of Birds from Costa Rica. By George K. Cherrie, Taxidermist and Ornithologist of the Costa Rica National Museum. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XIV, 1891, pp. 337-346.

†Notes on Costa Rican Birds. Ibid., pp. 517-537.

‡Contributions to the Comparative Osteology of Arctic and Sub-Arctic Water-birds. Parts V-IX. By R. W. Shufeldt, M. D., C. M. Z. S., etc. Journ. Anat. and Phys., XXIV, 1890, pp. 89-116, pl. vi-viii, pp. 169-187, pl. xi, xii, pp. 543-566, pl. xxv, 1891, pp. 60-77, 509-525, pl. xi, xii.